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**LETTER DATED 4 JANUARY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

I have the honour to transmit, in annexes to this letter, the texts of the political statement at the eighteenth session of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan and the New Year's greetings by the Head of State and President of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Emomali Rakhmonov.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as documents of the Security Council.

(Signed) L. K. KAYUMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

## Annex I

### Political Statement by the Head of State and President of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Emomali Rakhmonov, at the Eighteenth Session of the Twelfth Convocation of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan

As you know, the establishment of a law-based, democratic and secular State and the transition to a market economy have been the basic political and economic objective of the legitimate Government since its inception. It should be pointed out that in order to achieve this goal, the State and the Government have had, first of all, to lay the political, social, economic and cultural basis for it. Today we can tell the entire world that peace and tranquillity have triumphed in our ancient land. The people of the country and State and governmental bodies have taken encouraging steps to achieve overall harmony.

Today the time has come when we must turn from words to deeds in establishing a law-based, democratic and secular State. Accordingly, as Head of State, I announce that the new Constitution of the Republic is laying the foundation for the establishment of such a State. A great deal is being done in this area and the draft text of the new Constitution will be drawn up in the next few months. Accordingly, I believe that the Supreme Council should consider the draft new Basic Law and submit it for nationwide discussion. After the discussion and a national referendum have been completed, the final version of the draft Constitution will be adopted.

With regard to the dates for holding the referendum, I should point out that it is to be conducted no later than June 1994. The form of State government, presidential or parliamentary, will be determined through the adoption of the Basic Law. After the adoption of the Basic Law, which will specifically define the type of government in the Republic, the dates and form of the elections will be determined.

My personal view is that the elections to the highest State bodies should take place no later than the autumn of 1994. Accordingly, it is necessary to adopt a new elections act and on that basis hold free and democratic elections within the framework of the law.

I should like to refer briefly to the prospects for the Republic's economic development. I once again affirm that the only way to ensure the development of our society is through a market economy, the basis of which will be determined by various forms of ownership. The new Basic Law of the Republic must reflect this form of economy and constitute the basis for economic legislation. Thus, I declare to my compatriots and the entire world that the path which we have chosen is leading to a real democratic society.

It will be my task, as Head of State, to ensure that we proceed along the path that has been chosen. I am confident that together we shall all carry out the tasks facing us, which are aimed at enhancing the well-being of the nation and that, in doing so, we shall once again demonstrate our solidarity and unanimity and justify through good practical work the trust placed in us by the people.

## Annex II

## New Year's Greetings from the Head of State and President of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Emomali Rakhmonov

This is already the third time that we are celebrating the New Year under conditions in which the Republic is completely independent. The two years that have passed were not easy ones. During this time, we experienced events that will be remembered by the people for a long time to come.

The past year, in spite of economic difficulties, consolidated peace in the Republic and made it possible to preserve the integrity of our homeland and re-establish legality and law and order. Our people have undertaken constructive labour and tackled the questions of industrial production.

Unfortunately, our life today is still affected by many of the complicated problems related to those that are currently being experienced by all the peoples of the former Soviet Union. We all feel the effects of the severance of economic relations between States. The prices for food, consumer goods and fuel have risen sharply. A crisis has gripped the financial system. I felt the people's pain at numerous meetings with workers in various branches of the national economy, veterans of war and labour and members of the creative and scientific intelligentsia.

After the sixteenth session of the Supreme Council, the Republic's leaders inherited a devastated economy. It was necessary to consider basic needs and devote considerable effort to restoring what had been ruined. At the recent eighteenth session, the Supreme Council adopted a number of laws and decisions which provide a firm basis for developing the national economy.

In the coming year, we intend to radically change the principles guiding our work and focus our main efforts on production, construction, agriculture and improving the other branches of the economy linked to the well-being of the people. In the New Year, we are taking a number of measures which will help to stabilize the situation and fully guarantee the rights of citizens. A relentless struggle will be waged against speculators, criminals and mafia-type groups.

Another problem which requires unremitting attention is the return of the refugees to their homeland. We shall do everything to ensure that our fellow countrymen who are forced to live outside the Republic return home. During the visit of the Head of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Mr. Rabbani, to our Republic, in addition to solving other major problems, we concluded an agreement on refugees together with a representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

In the New Year, it is my great wish that all the citizens of free Tajikistan, undertake, hand in hand, the task of developing the country and treat one another kindly. Let us demonstrate by our good deeds that the nation cannot be divided.

As you know, on New Year's eve I addressed the glorious Tajik people from the podium of the eighteenth session of the Supreme Council of the Republic. I consider it necessary to repeat some of the points made in that address.

The draft new Constitution of the Republic will be submitted for a nationwide referendum no later than June 1994 so that the people themselves determine the form of government that we should have in the Republic: presidential or parliamentary.

Elections to the new parliament and of the head of State will take place in the autumn. May the people freely choose the form of government for the State and its head.

All our achievements and the authority of the Republic are the results of friendship and have been brought about by the peoples living in Tajikistan. During the difficult days of the past year, Russians, Uzbeks, Kyrgyzes, Turkmens and representatives of other peoples, together with their Tajik brothers and sisters, laboured selflessly in order to restore the economy and the spiritual values of the country.

The brotherhood and friendship of the peoples of Tajikistan constitute the foundation of the young sovereign State on which the future must be built. The international spirit of the Tajik people was also demonstrated by the fact that during their comparatively brief history, they were recognized as an equal member of the world community by the 184 States Members of the United Nations.

On the eve of the New Year, I wish to express sincere appreciation to the United Nations and the leaders of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States for their unselfish assistance and support.

Sovereign Tajikistan must complete a new stage of development in the New Year. In this connection, I confidently call upon persons with considerable life experience, veterans of war and labour, kind women and caring mothers, and our glorious youth: in the new year, let us, shoulder to shoulder, lead our Republic, through our combined efforts, out of its difficult social and economic situation. According to popular wisdom, when unity and mutual respect prevail in a family, it is possible to achieve all good things.

Thus, may the New Year, 1994, be a year of prosperity, happiness, peace and well being for us all!

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